



Testimony of Evan Murphy

Principal, Unemployment Tax Control Associates, Inc.

Before the Labor & Public Employees Committee

Hartford, CT

February 7, 2023

Testifying on

SB 938: AN ACT CONCERNING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR STRIKING WORKERS

Good afternoon, Senator Kushner, Representative Sanchez, Senator Sampson, Representative Ackert and members of the Labor & Public Employees Committee. My name is Evan Murphy, and I am a principal at Unemployment Tax Control Associates, Inc. Our business has represented employers of all size in managing their unemployment accounts. The majority of our employers are based in Connecticut and Massachusetts. They range in size from 10 to 14,000 employees and represent nearly every industry. We also are a registered tax-paying employer in the State of Connecticut.

UTCA opposes SB 938.

We are acutely aware of the historical struggles of Connecticut's UI trust solvency and the most recent solvency issue driven by pandemic borrowing. We laud the efforts of CT's legislators in passing the 2021 UI reforms and committing to using stimulus funds to ensure future sustainability of the trust fund. We fear that proposed legislation such as SB 938 will jeopardize the progress towards long-term solvency and will ultimately create a harsher business climate for the Connecticut.

As UTCA represents employers in all U.S. states and territories, the proposed act would be unique to all but NY state in allowing striking workers to collect unemployment benefits. While all state UI policies and statutes may very slightly, several key eligibility requirements are consistent throughout the U.S. that mirror Connecticut:

- The individual has lost their unemployment through no fault of their own
- The individual is able and available to work
- The individual is actively seeking work

An employee on strike cannot be considered unemployed based on this eligibility criteria. Passing SB 938 would represent a foundational change to the intent of the unemployment program, allowing claimants to collect by willfully commencing their own "lack of work".

We hope that The Labor & Public Employees Committee considers the historical precedent set by Connecticut's Unemployment Statutes and the financial prosperity of the UI Trust Fund, which ensures stability to employers and employees alike. UTCA humbly urges the Committee not to take action on SB 938.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Evan Murphy". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Evan Murphy

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